



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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### INTERIOR TO SPONSOR U.S./USSR CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced that the Fish and Wildlife Service will co-sponsor one of the largest U.S./USSR scientific conferences to date, to address conservation and wildlife resource management strategies for the 1990's, and beyond.

The conference, entitled "U.S./USSR Conference on Environmental Conservation for the 1990's," will be held June 17-22, 1990, at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

"This conference represents both the best of glasnost and improved East-West relations," Lujan said. "It also symbolizes the spirit of scientific inquiry and cooperation dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet."

Approximately 35 scientists from each country are expected to participate in the week-long conference. The participants represent a broad range of environmental expertise ranging from preservation of arctic ecosystems to coastal estuarine research.

The conference is part of a program begun in 1972, under the U.S./USSR Agreement on Cooperation in Environmental Protection. Over the past 18 years the Department of the Interior has established and maintained active professional relationships with its counterpart ministries in the Soviet Union.

"Conference participants will be charged with preparing a list of recommendations for future cooperation in conservation research and management. It's our hope that it will be a document worthy of consideration by environmental policy and decision makers in both countries," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner.